

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-57 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 37, 38, 43, 45, 48, 50, and 54 have been amended herein to further emphasize various distinguishing features. A version of all claims can be found at pages 2-11 of this document.

The subject application is currently under review before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. This Request for Continued Examination is being submitted to expedite prosecution in light of art submitted to applicants' representative by the European Patent Office in connection with an associated foreign filed application. In particular, the EPO has found WO 0112374 to be a relevant document, which is not currently art of reference before the USPTO, but is included in an associated IDS submitted herewith.

WO 0112374 teaches a welder that can send automatic messages to suppliers, wherein the messages relate to stocks of, or orders for, operating supplies. In order to expedite allowance of the subject application, independent claims 1, 37, 38, 43, 45, 48, 50, and 54 have been amended to include additional subject matter that is materially distinct from both the previous art of reference and WO 0112374. In particular, as amended, independent claim 1 (and similarly independent claims 37, 38, 43, 45, 48, 50, and 54) recites, "a welder comprising a consumable(s) monitor that transmits ***welding consumable(s) information that includes an indication of ownership of a welding consumable(s).***" Neither WO 0112374 nor other cited art teach or make obvious these features.

Accordingly, the subject claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

**CONCLUSION**

The present application is believed to be condition for allowance in view of the amendments and comments herein. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

A credit card payment form is filed concurrently herewith in connection with the \$790.00 fee for filing this reply. In the event any additional fees may be due and/or are not covered by the credit card, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1063[LINCP105US].

The Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative over the telephone to expedite favorable prosecution of the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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